



COUNCILMEMBER SHERRI LIGHTNER

CITY OF SAN DIEGO – COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

News Release

For Immediate Release
May 28, 2009

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Councilmember Lightner calls for cost analysis of expanding City's existing leash regulations for Children's Pool

SAN DIEGO --- Councilmember Lightner released a memo asking that the City of San Diego analyze the cost, safety and effectiveness of expanding the existing City policy for dogs on leashes at the Children's Pool. This memo was issued in response to community suggestions her office received after the release of the Court-ordered seal dispersal plan by the Mayor's office.

The existing City of San Diego policy allows dogs on leashes to be on all San Diego beaches before 9 am and after 6 pm during the summer and after 4 pm during the winter, including at the Children's Pool.

"My request is to assess the feasibility of expanding the City's existing leash policy for the Children's Pool as one way in which compliance with the Court order could be achieved," Lightner stated.

"We would also like the Mayor's office to provide the public with additional details on how they developed their seal dispersal plan, what alternatives were considered and why they were rejected, and how or if any public input was incorporated into the plan," Lightner said.

"In addition to analyzing and considering the leash policy for the Children's Pool, I am also requesting that the City of San Diego spend additional time analyzing the costs, effectiveness and safety of all possible methods of complying with any future Court order regarding the dispersal of the seals from the Children's Pool," Lightner continued.

“We welcome any additional community suggestions and will be glad to forward them on for assessment by City staff. We request that the Mayor’s office fully analyze and consider these ideas and provide a report on the assessment of each idea for public review and consideration,” Lightner added.

The City will be required to comply with any and all federal and Superior Court orders regarding the status of the Children’s Pool.

“In the event that the Superior Court orders the City of San Diego to disperse the seals in the future, the City needs to provide ideas to accomplish this in the safest and most cost-effective way,” Lightner added.

“Any plan to comply with the Court order needs to consider public input and protect the safety of both humans and marine mammals while minimizing the impacts on surrounding residents and businesses,” Lightner concluded.

Any plan must also comply with all National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) regulations and with the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Sherri Lightner is the Councilmember for Council District One of the City of San Diego, which includes the communities of Black Mountain Ranch, Carmel Valley, Del Mar Mesa, La Jolla, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Rancho Penasquitos, Torrey Hills, Torrey Highlands, Torrey Pines, and University City. She took office December 8, 2008.

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